



Catawba County Public Health

www.catawbacountync.gov/phealth

3070 11th Ave. Dr. SE, Hickory, NC 28602

Phone (828) 695-5800

Fax (828) 695-4410

For Release: June 22, 2012

Media Contact: Amy McCauley, Community Outreach Manager, (828) 695-5818, amccauley@catawbacountync.gov

CATAWBA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFERS FREE PERTUSSIS VACCINATIONS

HICKORY, NC – Catawba County Public Health is offering free Tdap vaccine, which protects against pertussis, to Catawba County residents age 7 years and older (including adults) regardless of insurance status. The free vaccine is being made available from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) Immunization Program (NCIP) in response to recent outbreaks of pertussis across the state.

Since January 1, 2012, Catawba County Public Health has been notified of 7 cases of pertussis in Catawba County.

According to the CDC, pertussis is a respiratory illness commonly known as whooping cough. It is usually spread from person to person by coughing or sneezing while in close contact with others.

Pertussis may appear as a common cold at first, but as it becomes more severe, a persistent cough may develop with symptoms such as:

- Many rapid coughs followed by a high-pitched "whoop"
- Vomiting (throwing up) after coughing
- Exhaustion (very tired) after coughing fits

If you or a family member has these symptoms, contact your doctor immediately. It is also advised to follow general preventive guidelines, including covering your mouth when coughing and staying home when sick.

The Tdap booster shot is recommended for any child ages 7–10 who did not complete the childhood DTaP vaccination series and anyone 11 and older who has not yet received a Tdap booster. Tdap is particularly recommended for:

- women who are pregnant or may become pregnant;
- all close contacts of infants under 12 months of age (parents, siblings, grandparents, household contacts, child care providers); and
- anyone with a pre-existing, chronic respiratory disease.

The DTaP vaccination series is recommended for children starting at 2 months of age, and continuing at 4 months, 6 months, 15-18 months and 4-6 years of age. A Tdap booster shot should be given to children by 11 years of age because immunity from the childhood vaccines wears off over time. Teens and adults who haven't yet received a pertussis booster shot should also be vaccinated.

"Leading the Way to a Healthier Community"



NC DHHS is providing the Tdap vaccine to health care providers in the NCIP network, which includes Catawba County Public Health and many local healthcare providers.

To receive the free Tdap vaccination, contact your healthcare provider or call Catawba County Public Health at (828) 695-5800 to make an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Located in Hickory, N.C., Catawba County Public Health provides health and education services to eligible men, women, and children in the community. For more information, please call (828) 695-5800 or visit www.catawbacountync.gov/phealth.

#